

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 1 as follows. The following complies with 37 C.F.R. 1.173(b)(2), and (c). For the Examiner's convenience, however, a marked-up version showing the changes from the prior version of the claim are shown on an attached sheet.

1. (Twice Amended) A method for ensuring the operation of signaling channels in a V5 interface between a local exchange and an access node, the interface comprising:

reconfiguring V5 interface data in an interface composition having at least two signaling channels; and

ensuring active operation of protected signaling channels when starting a V5 interface, wherein the protected signaling channels are started on at least one of signaling channels defined in a new interface composition, and on signaling channels to which the protected signaling channels were transferred in a protection switch-over.